

Salopek is a journalist. He is not a spy. He has written on everything from the human genome diversity project, for which he won his first Pulitzer Prize, to the civil war in the Congo, for which he won his second.

He has been a student of cultural geography, which informs his current project on the Sahel, once traveling hundreds of miles by mule through the remote Sierra Madre region in Mexico.

In another brilliant story, Paul traced the route of a barrel of oil, tracking shipments of crude oil from across the globe, until they reached South Elgin in my home State of Illinois, and filled the gas tanks of the cars in my home State.

He has written a touching article about 7-year-old brides in Ethiopia and a 13-year-old school girl in Angola who was tortured after she was accused of witchcraft.

His writing captures the reader from the opening sentence, illuminating and educating along the way. As Adlai Stevenson once said: He can make the words march on the page.

One of his former colleagues, now with the Seattle Times, wrote this week:

If we don't care about Paul, we don't care about the stories he writes. We don't care about the world and the people in its farthest reaches and most desperate circumstances. His work serves us all, to help us understand and feel.

I would like to associate myself with that quotation.

Paul Salopek is a journalist, a reporter, and most fundamentally he is a writer. He crossed a border without the correct paperwork, but he has spent his writing career breaking down borders that divide us in this world.

I am hopeful the Government of Sudan will recognize the fact that although Paul did enter the country without a visa, which is a civil violation, he did so as a writer, writing for the National Geographic magazine. He is not a spy. He did not come to this region of the world with any political agenda.

I am heartened by the news that the Khartoum Government has issued a pardon to a Slovenian writer and envoy who had been convicted of similar charges.

I hope that Mr. Salopek can be released even more quickly.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors, Reporters without Borders, the Overseas Press Club, and the Committee to Protect Journalists have all issued statements urging the release of Paul Salopek and his driver and translator who were detained with them.

I want to repeat those calls on the floor of the Senate.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make one small step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms.

I want to thank all those who tried to help; my colleague, Senator OBAMA, traveling in Africa, who has tried to do his part to help Paul Salopek. I also

want to acknowledge the work that has been done by former Congressman, former Ambassador, former Secretary, now Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who is also trying to help in every way he can.

This is an opportunity for the Sudanese Government to make the right step in the right direction, toward recognizing basic freedoms, toward demonstrating the kind of humanitarianism which will leave, I think, the Sudanese Government in good stead with many countries around the world.

It is my deepest hope that Paul Salopek will soon be reunited with his family and soon be released from this prison. It is a matter of the freedom of the press but, as I said, also the freedom of one fine man.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REPORT 109-325

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a transmittal letter dated September 5, 2006 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

HON. TED STEVENS,
President Pro Tempore,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: After two years of investigation and five hearings, the Committee is pleased to transmit our bipartisan, unanimous Final Report, 109-325, entitled "GIMME FIVE"—Investigation of Tribal Lobbying Matters.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MCCAIN,
Chairman.
BYRON DORGAN,
Vice Chairman.

TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GM IN BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for 25 years the Chevrolet Corvette, known as America's sports car, has been exclusively manufactured in the General Motors Bowling Green Assembly Plant

in Bowling Green, KY. I rise today to celebrate Bowling Green as the "Home of the Corvette." We are very proud that it is in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The Corvette looms large as one of America's most admired sports cars. Introduced in 1953, it was originally produced elsewhere, but in 1981, General Motors recognized Kentucky as the growing, business-friendly environment it has become and decided Bowling Green and the Corvette made a good match. The first Kentucky-built Corvette rolled off the assembly line on June 1, 1981.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant also produces the Cadillac XLR and XLR-V in addition to three models of the Corvette. Over 39,000 GM cars are manufactured in Kentucky each year and delivered to driving enthusiasts all over the world. Over the 2½ decades, the Bowling Green Assembly Plant has undergone redesign and updating to incorporate the latest technology. Recently, the newest model, the Corvette Z06, was launched and continues the success of the made-in-Kentucky Corvette brand.

The over 1,200 Kentuckians who work at the Bowling Green Assembly Plant maintain a high standard of quality while also serving as vital contributors to their communities. Plant employees have generously donated their efforts and resources to noble causes such as the United Way, Junior Achievement, the American Red Cross, D.A.R.E.—Drug Abuse Resistance Education—the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and various local charities.

The plant and its workers also work closely with Western Kentucky University to sponsor grants and events. They also offer 30 internships to WKU students each year, giving young men and women an invaluable opportunity to learn about the business world from inside one of America's biggest companies. Several interns have gone on to earn permanent jobs with GM after graduation.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant's contribution to the local economy cannot be understated, either. Not only does the plant provide jobs to Kentuckians and keep directing money into the local economy, the plant also offers public tours, attracting over 50,000 tourists to the area every year.

Every Corvette built in Kentucky is custom-built for an individual customer; the cars are not mass produced. The employees of the Bowling Green Assembly Plant are very proud of their commitment to precision and high quality. They have won more than 70 automotive industry awards since 1997.

The Bowling Green Assembly Plant will celebrate its 25 years in Kentucky this September. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kentuckians who make America's sports car for their dedication to achievement and success, both on the job and in their communities. Kentucky is still reaping the rewards

of its 25-year partnership with GM, and we hope to continue to do so for years to come.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WILLIAM EDGERTON
THORNE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to PFC William Edgerton Thorne who died honorably Thursday, August 24 at 8 a.m. in Baghdad at the age of 26. He was killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom after an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle.

Given the opportunity to protect the people he loved and his strong belief in the cause, Willy, as he was known among family and friends, fought proudly. Similarly, Corey, his wife, is serving her country in Iraq. The couple was married on November 10, 2001 and enlisted in the Army in May of 2005. While they realized the dangers and hardships, they were willing to risk their lives for the freedom of others. My thoughts and prayers are with Corey Thorne at this difficult time, and I thank her for her service and tremendous sacrifice.

Willy loved making children laugh, and he and his wife hoped to save enough money to adopt a baby. His death is deeply mourned by his hometown, Rock Valley, and throughout the nation. Thus there is great truth in what Willy's mother-in-law, Deb Jasper, said "A fallen soldier hits everyone because they have fallen for each and every one of us. What a sacrifice. What an honor." We, the American people, are forever indebted to Willy for his great strength and heroic sacrifice.

STAFF SERGEANT JEFFREY J. HANSEN

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Nebraska Army National Guard SSG Jeffrey J. Hansen of Cairo, NE. Staff Sergeant Hansen died of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident near Balad, Iraq on Sunday, August 27. He was 31 years old.

Staff Sergeant Hansen was a 1993 graduate of Bertrand Community High School and graduated from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 1997. Staff Sergeant Hansen lived in Cairo, NE, with his wife, Jennifer, and worked as a police officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs' medical facility in Grand Island, NE.

In January 2000, Staff Sergeant Hansen enlisted with the Nebraska Army National Guard. He mobilized for a tour of duty in Iraq on October 11, 2005 with the 1st Squadron, 167th Cavalry Regiment. Staff Sergeant Hansen served in a unit comprised of approximately 360 Nebraska Guard soldiers that were providing security for Camp Anaconda near Balad, Iraq. Staff Sergeant Hansen will be remembered as a loyal soldier who had a strong sense of duty, honor and love of country. Thousands of brave Americans like Staff Sergeant Hansen are currently serving in Iraq.

In addition to his wife, Staff Sergeant Hansen is survived by his father, Robert, of Bertrand, Nebraska. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time. America is proud of Staff Sergeant Hansen's heroic service and mourns his loss.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring Staff Sergeant Jeffrey J. Hansen.

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I hereby submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report prepared by the Congressional Budget Office under Section 308(b) and in aid of Section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended. This report meets the requirements for Senate scorekeeping of Section 5 of S. Con. Res. 32, the First Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for 1986.

This report shows the effects of congressional action on the 2006 budget through August 4, 2006. The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of the 2006 Concurrent Resolution on the Budget, H. Con. Res. 95. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the attached report excludes these amounts.

The estimates show that current level spending is under the budget resolution by \$11.869 billion in budget authority and by \$4.030 billion in outlays in 2006. Current level for revenues is \$6.590 billion above the budget resolution in 2006.

Since my last report dated July 11, 2006, Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts which have changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues for 2006: the Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-250) and an act to provide funding to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (P.L. 109-268). In addition, the scoring for the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 was added to the report.

I ask unanimous consent to print the following information in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2006.

Hon. JUDD GREGG,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed tables show the effects of Congressional action on the 2006 budget and are current through August 4, 2006. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions for fiscal year 2006 that underlie H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006. Pursuant to section 402 of that resolution, provisions designated as

emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 2 on Table 2).

Since my last letter dated July 10, 2006, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts which have changed budget authority, outlays, or revenues: the Returned Americans Protection Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-250); and an act to provide funding to facilitate the evacuation of persons from Lebanon (Public Law 109-268).

In addition, the scoring for the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-235) was added to the enclosed report. The act increases revenues in fiscal year 2006 by \$1 million.

Sincerely,

DONALD B. MARRON,
Acting Director

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF AUGUST 4, 2006

(In billions of dollars)

	Budget resolution ¹	Current level ²	Current level over/under (—) resolution
ON-BUDGET			
Budget Authority	2,094.4	2,082.5	—11.9
Outlays	2,099.0	2,095.0	—4.0
Revenues	1,589.9	1,596.5	6.6
OFF-BUDGET			
Social Security Outlays ³	416.0	416.0	0
Social Security Revenues	604.8	604.8	*

¹ H. Con. Res. 95, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2006, assumed \$50.0 billion in budget authority and \$62.4 billion in outlays in fiscal year 2006 from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current-level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in the previous session and the emergency requirements in Public Law 109-176, Public Law 109-208, and Public Law 109-234 (see footnote 2 on Table 2), the budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

² Current level is the estimated effect on revenue and spending of all legislation that the Congress has enacted or sent to the President for his approval. In addition, full-year funding estimates under current law are included for entitlement and mandatory programs requiring annual appropriations, even if the appropriations have not been made.

³ Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are also off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

* = Less than \$50 million.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT-LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006, AS OF AUGUST 4, 2006

(In millions of dollars)

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous sessions:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,607,180
Permanent and other spending legislation ¹	1,296,134	1,248,957	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,333,823	1,323,802	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	—479,868	—479,868	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous sessions	2,150,089	2,092,891	1,607,180
Enacted This Session:			
Katrina Emergency Assistance Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-176)	250	250	0
An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program for 2006 (P.L. 109-204)	1,000	750	0